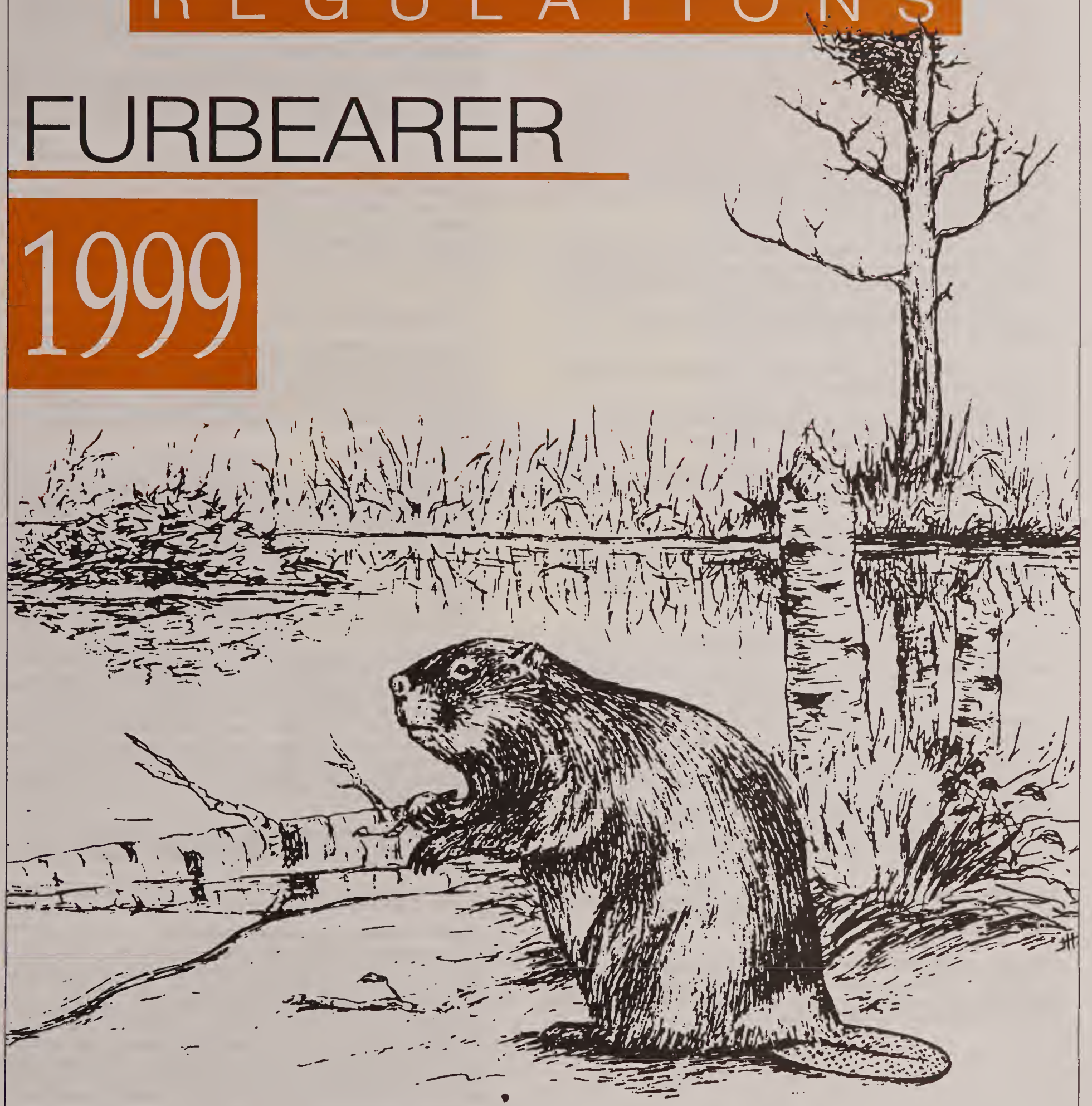
MONTANA REGULATIONS

FURBEARER

1999



Lynx season is **CLOSED** *... see page 2*

Bobcat trappers/hunters must report kill within 24 hours ... see page 2

Turn In Poachers ... **1-800-TIP-MONT** *or* **1-800-847-6668**

LICENSES AND DEFINITIONS

These regulations and final quotas are adopted under the authority granted to the commission in Section 87-1-301, MCA and are valid July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000. These requlations were adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission on August 6, 1999. Patrick Graham, Secretary.

New for 1999 - 2000 Trapping Season

Changes and New Regulations are Shaded.

New for 2000 - 2001 Trapping Season

Effective for the 2000-2001Trapping Season: All snares are required to be equipped with a breakaway lock device designed to release when 200 - 350 ft/lbs of force is applied. EXCEPTION: Snares used underwater do not need to be equipped with breakaway devices until 11/1/02.

LICENSES

The following licenses are available at Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices in Kalispell, Missoula, Bozeman, Great Falls, Billings, Glasgow, Miles City and Helena and the Helena, Butte and Havre resource area offices.

Conservation (required prerequisite) -- $4 Resident and $5 Nonresident.

General Trapper--$20; available only to resident conservation license holders 13 years of age or older.

Youth Trapper-- $3; available only to resident conservation license holders 6 through 12 years of age. Valid for mink and muskrat.

Landowner Trapper-- $1; applicants must give legal description of land owned or leased, name, address and resident conservation license number.

Nonresident Trapper-- $250 available only to nonresident conservation license holders, 13 years of age or older, whose state of residence has nonresident trapper licenses available to Montana trappers. Valid for predatory animals and nongame wildlife. Season Dates: October 16 - April 15.

Fur Dealer-- $10 resident; $10 Agent; $50 Nonresident

Bobcat and wolverine may be taken only by resident trappers or hunters that purchase a trapper license prior to December 1.

A license is not required for resident trappers/hunters or nonresident hunters to take predatory animals and nongame wildlife.

DEFINITIONS

Furbearer animals are legally defined as beaver, otter, muskrat, mink, marten, fisher, wolverine, bobcat, lynx and swift fox. ONLY MONTANA RESIDENTS MAY TRAP OR HUNT FURBEARERS, LICENSE REQUIRED.

Predatory animals are legally defined as coyote, weasel, skunk and civet cat (spotted skunk). LICENSE REQUIRED FOR NONRESIDENT TRAPPERS ONLY.

Nongame wildlife means any wild animal not otherwise legally classified by statute or regulation in Montana. Examples of nongame wildlife with commercial value are badger, raccoon and red fox. LICENSE REQUIRED FOR NONRESIDENT TRAPPERS ONLY.

Water Set — Any trap originally set in or on any body of water. This shall include traps on floats in the water and those that are set with a minimum of one third of the trap submerged. The term water set applies to traps set on beaver dams, in bank holes and in the water at bank slides. This shall not apply to temporarily standing water resulting from any cause, such as rainfall, snow runoff or flooding.

Ground Set— Any trap originally set in or on the land (soil, rock, etc.). This includes any traps elevated less than 36 inches above the natural ground or snow level.

Other Sets— Includes any set not defined as a water or ground set, including without limitation, elevated sets originally set 36 inches or more above natural ground or snow level.

Fur dealer is defined as any person or persons, firm, company or corporation engaging in or conducting wholly or in part the business of buying or selling, trading or dealing within the State of Montana, in the skins or pelts of any animal or animals, designated by the laws of Montana as furbearing or predatory animals. If such fur dealer resides in or if his principal place of business is within the state of Montana, he shall be deemed a resident fur dealer. All other fur dealers shall be deemed nonresident fur dealers

QUOTAS/SEASON CLOSURES

Current harvest information may be obtained by calling the appropriate Fish, Wildlife & Parks regional office during normal business hours or by calling 1-800-711-TRAP (1-800-711-8727) 24 hours a day. Furbearer seasons will close in 48 hours when a species quota is reached prior to the end of the regular season.

PELT TAGGING

Harvest Data Reporting — Trappers and hunters are required to provide harvest registration data for bobcat, otter, wolverine, fisher, and marten at the time the pelt is presented for tagging.

Marten — Pelts must be tagged by Fish, Wildlife & Parks personnel residing in the trapping district where animal was taken no later than 10 days after close of the season.

Bobcat, Otter, Wolverine & Fisher — Pelts must be tagged by Fish, Wildlife & Parks personnel residing in the trapping district where animal was taken within 72 hours of taking. Trappers or hunters unable to comply with the tagging requirements due to special or unique circumstances must report their harvest and make arrangements for tagging at the proper regional office or by contacting field personnel within 72 hours of harvest. Pelts not registered or presented to department personnel within 72 hours are subject to confiscation.

The species, trapping district, date and tag number will be permanently recorded on the back of the trapper's license when pelts are tagged.

CARCASSES/SKULLS

Wolverine, Fisher, Otter, Marten & Bobcat — It is mandatory that the entire and intact carcass of all wolverine, fisher, otter and the skulls of marten and bobcat be turned into Fish, Wildlife & Parks in good condition, at the time the pelt is presented for tagging. The skulls will be retained by Fish, Wildlife & Parks for processing and examination and then returned to the owner if desired. Good condition is defined as fresh or frozen and securely wrapped in such a manner as to have prevented decomposition in order that all tissue samples are suitable for lab analysis. Any wolverine, fisher or otter pelt that is presented for tagging without the carcass in good condition, shall be subject to confiscation.

Trappers are requested to be able to identify or have skulls sorted by sex for bobcat and marten before presenting them to FWP personnel.

FURBEARER SEASONS

FURBEARER SEASONS

The state is divided into seven legally described trapping districts, designated by numbers, wherein the season dates, limits and species of furbearers which may be taken are specified.

NOTE BOUNDARY CHANGES that affect Trapping Districts 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

BEAVER — STATEWIDE SEASON DATES: November 1 - April 15 of the following year, except state Wildlife Management Areas and specific closures (See SPECIAL REGULATIONS and CLOSURES).

Beaver that have been legally trapped can be dispatched with a firearm.

Owners and lessees of real estate being damaged by beaver may apply for a permit to trap beaver under provisions of the law. Please contact your local game warden for further information.

Trappers participating in a beaver damage complaint must have in their possession the damage permit issued to the landowner (or a copy thereof) during trapping activities.

OTTER — STATEWIDE SEASON DATES: November 1 - April 15 of the following year, except state Wildlife Management Areas and specific closures (See SPECIAL REGULATIONS and CLOSURES).

Limit— Persons may take and possess one (1) otter each per season (See PELT TAGGING and CARCASSES/SKULLS). The otter season on the Flathead Indian Reservation is closed to all trappers (members and nonmembers).

MUSKRAT — STATEWIDE SEASON DATES: November 1 - April 15 of the following year, except state Wildlife Management Areas and specific closures (See SPECIAL REGULATIONS).

Traps may be set in muskrat houses provided the part removed is replaced after insertion of the trap and after removal of the trap. It is unlawful for any person to willfully destroy, leave open or partially destroy a muskrat house.

MINK — STATEWIDE SEASON DATES: November 1 - April 15 of the following year except state Wildlife Management Areas and specific closures (See SPECIAL REGULATIONS).

MARTEN — SEASON DATES: TRAPPING DISTRICT 1 through 5: December 1 - February 15 of the following year (See PELT TAGGING AND CARCASSES/SKULLS).

FISHER — SEASON DATES: TRAPPING DISTRICTS 1 & 2: December 1 - February 15 of the following year. Fisher season will close in 48 hours upon reaching the trapping district quota or on February 15, whichever occurs first.

Limit — Persons may take and possess one (1) fisher each per season (See PELT TAGGING AND CARCASSES/SKULLS).

Quota - Trapping District 1 has a quota of two (2) fishers. Trapping District 2 has a quota of five (5) fishers. Statewide Quota is seven (7) fishers.

Accidentally trapped fishers that cannot be released uninjured must be immediately reported to Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

WOLVERINE — SEASON DATES: TRAPPING DISTRICTS 1 through 5: December 1 - February 15 of the following year. License must be purchased prior to December 1.

Limit — Persons may take and possess one (1) wolverine each per season (See PELT TAGGING and CARCASSES/SKULLS).

BOBCAT — STATEWIDE SEASON DATES: Trapping districts 1, 2 and 3: December 1 - February 15 of the following year; Trapping districts 4, 5, 6 and 7: December 1 - March 1 of the following year. License must be purchased prior to December 1. Season will close in 48 hours upon reaching the trapping district quota.

Limit — Persons may take and possess seven (7) bobcats each per season in Trapping Districts 1, 2 and 3. There is no per trapper limit in the remaining districts (See PELT TAGGING AND CARCASSES/SKULLS). The bobcat season on the Flathead Indian Reservation is closed to all trappers (members and nonmembers).

District:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
QUOTA	150	160	125	175	200	100	600

BOBCAT REPORTING — Hunters or trappers must personally report their bobcat kill within 24 hours to an officer of Fish, Wildlife & Parks in the trapping district where the animal was taken (See PELT TAGGING).

Chase — A hound handler who has purchased a mountain lion license marked for hound handling, or a free hound handler permit, may legally chase bobcat during the hunting season and any time after the season is closed in the trapping district, or until April 14. A hound handler permit must be obtained prior to December 1 of the current year.

USE OF DOGS: dogs may be used to chase or hunt bobcats within prescribed seasons. Bobcat hunting is open each day from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Bobcat chasing is open each day from two hours before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset in the hunting districts where mountain lion season has closed (Check mountain lion toll free line 1-800-385-7826); Bobcat chasing is open each day from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset in the hunting districts where mountain lion season is open. BOBCATS MAY NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL LEGAL BOBCAT HUNTING HOURS. It is prohibited for a hound handler or bobcat hunter to release dogs on a bobcat track, or allow dogs to chase a bobcat, or hold a bobcat at bay when the season is not open to hunting or chasing bobcats.

CHASE-ONLY SEASON: All trapping districts are open each day from two hours before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset for the CHASE-ONLY season February 16 - April 14. All Wildlife Management Areas, National Wildlife Refuges and Deer, Elk & Mountain Lion Hunting District 282 are closed to bobcat chase season.

LYNX — CLOSED SEASON. Accidentally trapped lynx that cannot be released uninjured must be immediately reported to Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

SWIFT FOX — CLOSED SEASON. Accidentally trapped swift fox that cannot be released uninjured must be immediately reported to Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

FURBEARER & TRAPPING REGULATIONS

FURBEARER REGULATIONS

Taking of furbearer animals during the open season by any means other than trapping or snaring is prohibited, unless otherwise stated.

Hunting — Bobcat and wolverine are the only animals defined by law as furbearing animals that may be taken by hunting (MCA 87-2-601).

Dogs — Dogs may be used to take bobcat (MCA 87-3-124), but no other animals defined by law as furbearing animals.

Checking and Placing Traps — Traps should be checked at least once every 48 hours. It is the trapper's responsibility to check his/her traps regularly. Failure to pick up snares or traps at the end of the trapping season or attending them in a manner that waste furbearing animals constitutes a misdemeanor (MCA 87-3-506).

Live Furbearers — Live furbearing animals may not be possessed except under the provisions of the fur farm or roadside zoo permits. It is unlawful to capture wild furbearers for fur farm stock. (MCA 87-4-1014)

Return to Kill Site — As a condition of hunting and trapping in Montana, persons may be required to return to the kill site or trap site if requested to do so by a FWP employee.

Body-Gripping Ground Sets — On public land, ground sets using 7 x 7 or larger body gripping ground traps must have a trigger recessed a minimum of seven (7) inches within a secure enclosure that provides openings no greater than fifty-two (52) square inches each.

Ground Sets Along Public Road — Ground sets using 7 x 7 or larger body-gripping traps are prohibited within the right of way, or if no right of way then thirty (30) feet of the centerline of any publicly owned and maintained road. An exception to this requirement, to be granted by FWP is allowed for damage control where there is a need to address specific problem situations, provided the area is posted. Definition of Publicly Owned and Maintained Road: A road owned by a subdivision of the government, including city, county, state or federal government and maintained by the government for year-round, legal car and light truck traffic.

Cross Country Ski Trails — When using a body gripping ground set, during times normally used for skiing, a 30-foot setback is required along designated public land cross-country ski trails. An exception to this requirement, to be granted by FWP, is allowed for damage control where there is a need to address specific problem situations, provided the area is posted.

Hiking Trails — When using a body gripping ground set, a 30-foot setback is required along public land, non-motorized trails with designated trailheads that are actively used for hiking during the trapping season. An exception to this requirement, to be granted by FWP, is allowed for damage control where there is a need to address specific problem situations, provided the area is posted.

Public Campground — Ground sets, including snares are prohibited on public land within 1000 feet of a designated public campground or fishing access site (accessible by highway vehicle), except for human health and safety.

Occupied Dwellings — Ground set traps including snares are prohibited within 1000 feet of an occupied dwelling without written notification of the occupant.

Destroying Muskrat and Beaver Houses — It is unlawful for any person to willfully destroy, open or leave open, a muskrat or beaver house. This shall not prohibit trapping in muskrat houses when authorized by the Commission (MCA 87-3-503).

Tagged Furbearers — A number of furbearing animals have been tagged for scientific study. If one of these animals is captured, please notify the nearest game warden or regional office of the tag number or numbers and the locality of the capture.

Pelt Possession — It shall be unlawful for any fur dealer or fur dealer agent to purchase or possess any untagged marten, fisher, wolverine, bobcat or otter pelt, except those untagged furs originating outside Montana which are accompanied by an export permit or other documentation of lawful acquisition.

Export — A federal export permit is required in addition to a Montana state tag before the pelts of bobcat and otter may be exported from the United States. Apply to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 600 Central Plaza, Room 209, Great Falls MT 59401.

Penalties — Persons convicted of knowingly taking, possessing or transporting furbearers or pelts in violation of the rules or laws, shall be fined not less than $50 or more than $1,000, imprisoned in the county jail for not more than 6 months, or both. In addition, such person shall forfeit his privilege to hunt, fish or trap for not less than 24 months. Civil restitution from $100 to $500 may be assessed for each illegal animal or pelt.

GENERAL TRAPPING REGULATIONS

These regulations apply to trapping of furbearers, predators and nongame wildlife.

Landowner Permission — Resident trappers must obtain permission of the landowner, lessee or their agent before trapping on private land. Nonresidents must obtain written permission from the landowner, lessee or their agent before trapping or snaring predatory animals and nongame wildlife on provide property (MCA 87-2-604).

Snares — It is unlawful to set snares on private property without landowner permission (MCA 87-3-107). Snares must be set in a manner and at a time so as not to duly endanger livestock. A trapper who injures livestock in a snare is liable for damage and this constitutes a misdemeanor.

Exposed Carcass or Bait — No trap or snare may be set within 30 feet of an exposed carcass or bait that can be seen by soaring raptors. Exposed carcass or bait is defined as the meat or viscera of a mammal, bird or fish, or any part thereof more than one pound in weight. Bleached bones are excluded.

Trap Identification — Metal identification tags that bear the name and address of the trapper must be fastened to all traps and snares (MCA 87-3-504). Tags should be attached to the end of the snare, chain or other anchoring material at the end farthest from the portion of the device which holds the animal. Snares must also have telephone numbers included on the tag (MCA 87-3-107). Landowners who trap on their own lands and irrigation right-of-way contiguous to their land do not need to tag traps or snares.

Disturbing Traps or Trapped Animals — It is unlawful to destroy, disturb or remove any trap, snare or trapped wildlife belonging to a trapper without permission of the owner of the trap or snare, except that from May 1 to October 1 a landowner may remove any snare from owned or leased land if such snare could endanger livestock (MCA 87-3-507).

Non-Target Species — Depending on circumstances, trapping or snaring of non-target species could constitute a violation of state law (MCA 87-3-101). Protected birds or mammals found in traps, uninjured shall be released on site. Accidentally trapped or snared animals that cannot be released uninjured must be immediately reported to Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

School Trust Land — A special use license is required to trap on these lands. For further information contact a Department of Natural Resources and Conservation district office or the state office at 1625 11th Avenue, Helena MT 59620 (406-444-2074).

State Game Preserves, FWP Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), and Parks — All state game preserves are open to trapping. Wildlife Management Areas with big game winter range, unless otherwise posted, are closed to public entry from the day following the end of the general deer/elk season or December 1, whichever is later, to May 15 each year, as posted (The Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA closes November 10). Trapping on Fish, Wildlife & Parks lands and WMAs will be allowed by written authorization of the area manager or a department employee for land not having a resident manager. Beaver Creek Park is open to trapping only by permission obtained from the Hill County Park Board.

Montana Stream Access Law — This law does not apply to trapping or snaring. Trappers are required to obtain permission from the landowner to trap or snare on navigable streams and rivers between the low and high water marks.

Littering — A person convicted of littering while hunting, trapping, fishing or camping shall forfeit their license or privileges to hunt, trap, fish or camp within Montana for a period of one year.

National Wildlife Refuges — More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges open to public trapping. For additional information on federal regulations, contact Special Agent-in-Charge, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, POB 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver CO 80225 (303-234-4612) or the local manager.

Tribal Lands — Tribal governments may have adopted trapping regulations within the exterior boundaries of their respective reservations. Trappers should be aware that tribal regulations may differ from the statewide trapping regulations adopted by the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission. Currently no Montana tribe offers trapping permits to nonmembers. Questions of state-tribal jurisdiction have not been resolved.

Closures — All National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges and Indian Trust or Tribal Trust lands are closed to trapping except as otherwise specified. Permits to trap on National Wildlife Refuges may be issued by the Refuge office.

Recorded or Electronic Devices — It is unlawful to use any recorded or electrically amplified bird or animal calls or sounds or imitations of bird or animal calls or sounds to assist in the hunting, taking, killing or capturing of any wildlife except predatory animals (MCA 87-3-108).

Export — If you are transporting game or fish between Montana and Canada, whether for commercial or noncommercial purposes, you must complete a USFWS declaration form. Contact the USFWS Wildlife Inspector at 406-453-5790 or FAX 406-453-3657 for details.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Beartooth Wildlife Management Area (portion) — A portion of the Beartooth WMA consists of one (1) trapping unit where up to seven (7) beaver can be taken by a single permitted trapper. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number and valid trapper's license number by September 15 to:

Jim Williams, Trapping, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
POB 6610
Great Falls MT 59406

Mt. Haggin Wildlife Management Area — The Mt.Haggin WMA consists of trapping units where a quota of three (3) licensed trappers shall be permitted to trap one limit of furbearers each, including ten (10) beaver. Trappers will be selected by a random drawing. Trappers will be able to select an area to trap in the order of names drawn. The last trapper selected will be assigned the remaining trapping area. All trapping permits are valid through April 15. Trappers wishing to take predators must contact Craig Fager for a trapping permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, and valid trapper's license number by September 15 to:

Craig Fager, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Butte Area Resource Office, 1820 Meadowlark Lane
Butte MT 59701

Freezout Lake Wildlife Management Area — The Freezout Lake WMA is divided into two (2) different trapping units for furbearers. One of these units consists of Pond 3 and is available for trapping to interested trappers by drawing only. Two trapping seasons are designated: fall (November 1 to December 31) and spring (January 1 to April 15). After March 15 no traps will be allowed in/on muskrat houses or hay bale nesting structures. Trappers and trapping units will be selected/assigned by random drawing. Unless supply exceeds demand, any one trapper may trap only one unit and/or season per year. The second trapping unit consists of the main lake, Priest Lake and Ponds 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6. This second unit will be open to any/all interested trappers except those persons already holding drawn permission to trap Pond 3. Trapping, hunting and access within the waterfowl closure on the south end of the main lake is prohibited until November 20. Any part of the WMA that is open to public access is open to interested parties for the hunting and/or trapping of predators and nongame wildlife. Interested trappers must submit their name, address, telephone number, valid trapper's license number and indicate the season for which they wish to be considered by September 15 to:

Freezout Lake WMA/Trapping
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
POB 488, Fairfield MT 59436

Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area — The Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area is divided into two (2) trapping units with only one unit open to trapping in a given year. One trapper will be selected by a random drawing and will be notified which unit is open for trapping. Applicants should be aware that only limited populations of most furbearers exist on the WMA and that most access is by foot. No trapping will be allowed on the WMA until the end of the pheasant season. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number and valid trapper's license number by September 15 to:

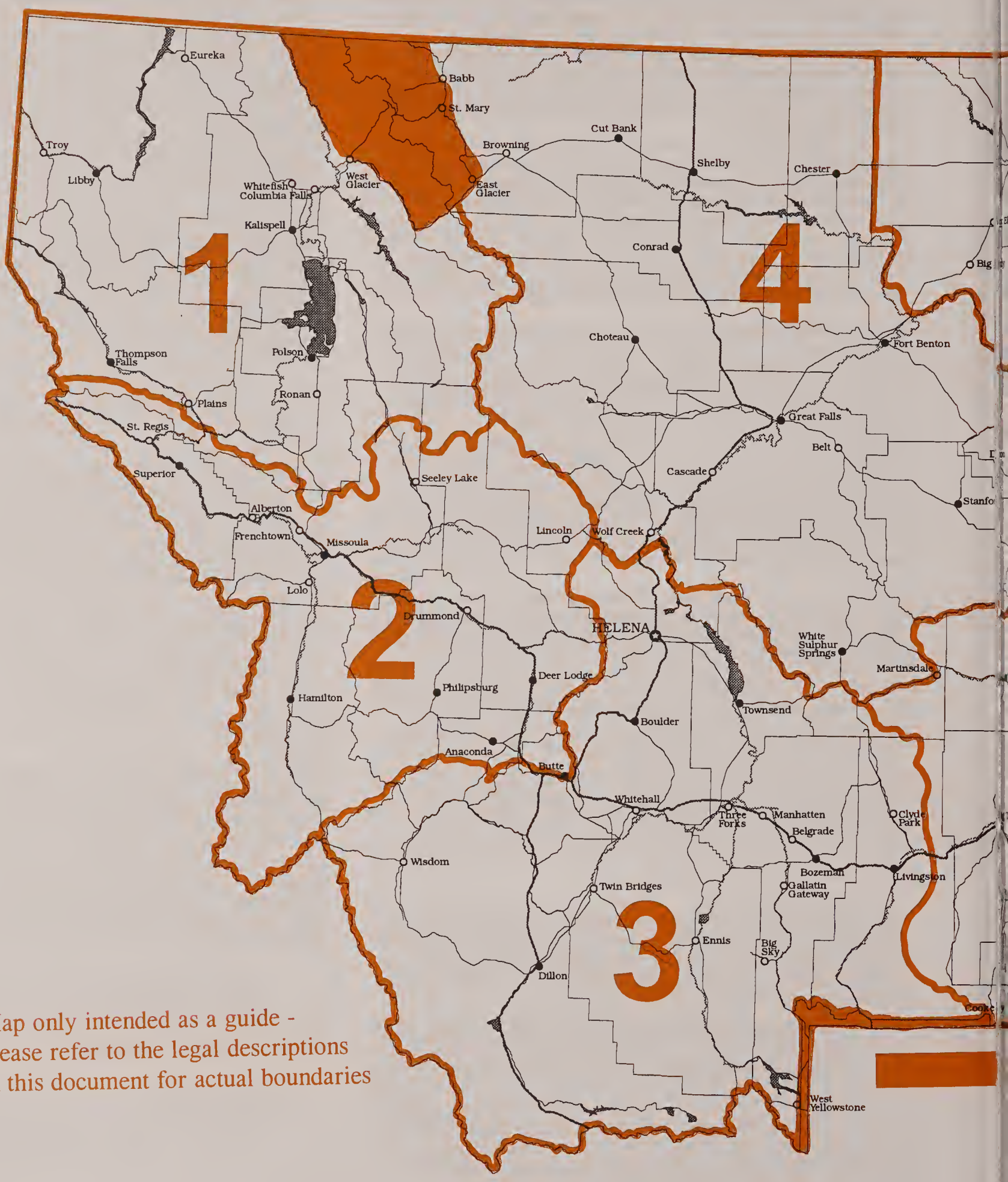
Tom Carlsen
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Box 998, Townsend MT 59644

Upper Madison Beaver Management Area - Refer to Legal Description.
The upper Madison trapping area consists of seven (7) units for beaver and otter with quotas for each species. Trapping season is October 15 through April 30 by permit only. Trapping units will be allocated based upon a random drawing of written trapper applications. Trappers may select a trapping area in the order their names are drawn. Each of the selected trappers shall be permitted to trap five (5), or ten (10) beaver depending on the trapping area assigned. The last trapper selected will be assigned the remaining trapping area. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number and valid trapper's license number by September 15 to:

Kurt Alt, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman MT 59715

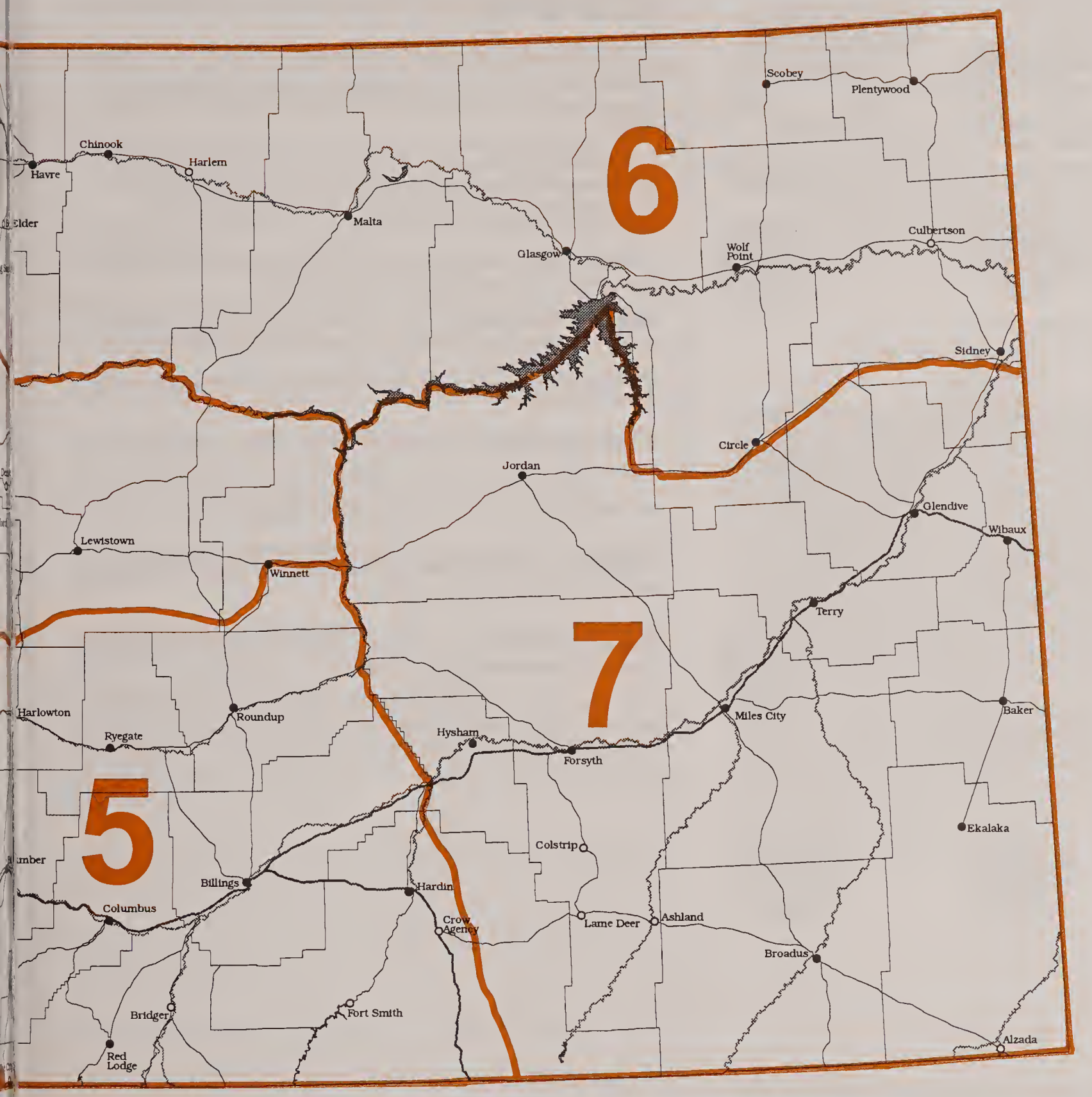
Continued on Page Following Map.

TRAPPING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES



Map only intended as a guide -
please refer to the legal descriptions
in this document for actual boundaries

TRAPPING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES



Closed Areas - Glacier National Park, Yellowstone National Park

CLOSURES

Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area — The Blackfoot-Clearwater Area is divided into two (2) trapping units (Clearwater River and Cottonwood Creek), and trapping is permitted during two (2) periods (November 1 - January 31; February 1 - April 15), with one trapper per unit and time period (4 trappers total). Trappers will be selected by random drawing. The first trapper will be asked to choose a unit and period, the second trapper drawn will be offered the remaining choices, and so on. Each of the selected trappers shall be permitted to trap one limit of furbearers, including ten (10) beaver. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number and valid trapper's license number by September 15 to:

Mike Thompson
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula MT 59801

Lake Helena Wildlife Management Area — The Lake Helena Wildlife Management Area consists of one (1) trapping unit. A spring trapping season is designated: January 1 to April 15. No trapping will be allowed on the Area until after the waterfowl hunting season. One trapper will be permitted to trap furbearers and predators. The trapper will be selected by a random drawing. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number and valid trapper's license number by September 15 to:

Gayle Joslin
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
930 Custer Avenue West, Helena MT 59620

Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area — The Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area consists of three (3) trapping units for furbearers:(Warm Springs Ponds Unit, Warm Springs Hospital Ponds Unit and the Job Corp Ponds Unit. Applicants should be aware that most of the access is by foot or in some areas, nonmotorized boat. Selected trappers shall be permitted to trap one limit of furbearers each, including not more than five (5) beaver per trapping unit. Trappers may select a trapping unit in the order their names are drawn. The last trapper selected will be assigned the remaining trapping unit. Trappers wishing to take predators must contact the FWP Area Manager for a predator trapping permit. All trapping permits are valid through April 15. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number and valid trappers license number by September 15 to:

David Dziak, Trapping
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Box A, Warm Springs MT 59756

CLOSED TO BEAVER/OTTER TRAPPING

NOTE — All areas closed to beaver trapping are also closed to otter trapping.

Beaverhead County —Trail Creek and Trapper Creek drainages and Canyon Creek upstream from the National Forest boundary.

Broadwater County — Those portions of Dry Creek, Confederate Gulch, White Gulch, Avalanche Gulch, Eagle Creek, Crow Creek and Jenkins Creek on public land.

Deer Lodge County — The entire Dry Cottonwood Creek drainage.

Gallatin County — That portion of the Gallatin River and all of its tributaries above the Gallatin River Bridge at the Squaw Creek Ranger Station.

Gallatin and Park Counties —That portion of the Yellowstone River and all of its tributaries inside the Gallatin National Forest boundary above the Yellowstone River Bridge on Interstate Highway 90 at Livingston.

Granite County —The entire Smart Creek, Wyman Creek, Swamp Gulch Creek, and Sand Basin Creek drainages.

Lewis and Clark County — The Blackfoot River upstream from the mouth of Bartlett Creek including the entire Bartlett Creek drainage.

Mineral County — The entire Cedar Creek, Big Creek and Flatrock Creek drainages.

Missoula and Mineral Counties — The entire Fish Creek drainage.

Missoula County — Nine Mile Creek drainage above Pine Creek.

Powell County — The entire Pikes Peak drainage.

Sweet Grass County — That portion of the East Boulder River and all its tributaries from the Gallatin National Forest boundary upstream to the headwaters of the East Boulder River.

Sweet Grass and Park Counties — That portion of the Main Boulder River and all its tributaries from the mouth of Falls Creek upstream to the headwaters of the Main Boulder River.

Teton County — The entire Teton drainage including all tributaries of the South, Middle, West and North Forks of the Teton River, downstream to the US Forest Service boundary.

SOME METHODS FOR IMPROVING EFFICIENCY, SELECTIVITY AND HUMANENESS

Use pan tension devices to avoid non-target catches.

Use extra swivels and center-mounted chains to better hold animals and reduce the chance of injuries.

Use modern positioning techniques at dirt hole sets to increase selectivity.

Use short trap chains for most land sets, especially those targeted for fox and coyotes.

Use guarded "stop-loss" traps for muskrats in shallow water or dry land sets.

Use dispatching methods that are quick and humane.

Use trap sizes that are appropriate for the target species – pad catches are desirable for fox, coyotes, raccoon and many other animals because they cause fewer injuries.

Use baits and lures that attract target species but not other animals.

Use cage, box or species-specific traps near rural residences, subdivisions, barns, outbuildings and other locations where domestic animals may be present.

Use common sense in choosing set locations that maximize opportunities to catch target species and minimize opportunities to catch other animals.

Use secure methods of attaching traps – tailor methods to hold the largest species you may catch.

Use traps with padded or laminated jaws where the risk of nontarget catches is high.

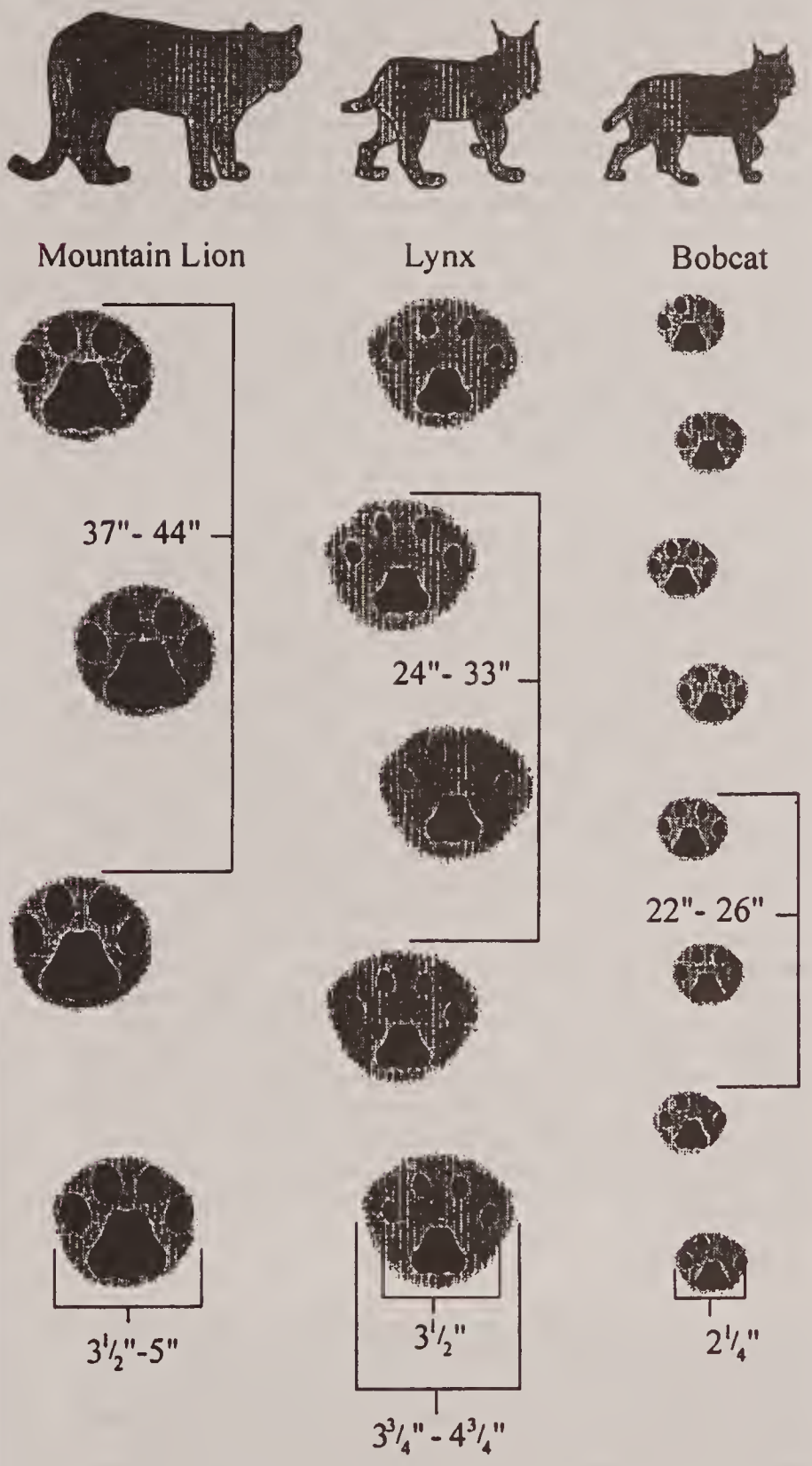
Use discretion when setting body-gripping traps.

Use time to your advantage – don't set more traps than you can check every 48 hours.

Use early morning trap checks to reduce the time an animal is held, reduce its chances of escape, and avoid theft of traps and animals.

CAT IDENTIFICATION

Field identification characteristics of Mountain Lion, Lynx, and Bobcat - physical markings and tracks in the snow (Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1999)



- **Note differences in tail length of lion and black markings on tip of lynx and bobcat tail**
- **Lynx ear tufts are longer than bobcat ear tufts**
- **Lion and lynx foot sizes are similar; bobcat is much smaller**
- **Tracks are shown with shaded area representing impression of hair in the snow**
- **Note track size and stride length differences between species**

LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS

DISTRICT 1

Those portions of Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, Powell, and Sanders counties within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where the Continental Divide intersects with the Glacier National Park boundary at Marias Pass, then westerly and northerly along the Glacier National Park boundary to the Canadian line, then westerly along the said line to the Montana-Idaho border, then southerly along said border to its junction with the Sanders-Mineral County line, then easterly along said county line to Trail 404 near Combpest Peak, then east on Trail 404 to Miller Creek Loop Road, then along Miller Creek and Forest Road 7593 to Patrick's Knob, then southerly on Trail 1714 to Miller Creek Loop Road, then along Miller Creek and Forest Road 7593 to Patrick's Knob, then southerly on Trail 1714 to Montana Route 135, then easterly along said route to Trail 242, then southerly along said trail to Clark Fork-Ninemile Divide, then easterly along said divide and Sanders County line to the Flathead Indian Reservation, then northerly and easterly and then southerly along said reservation to the Swan-Clearwater Divide, then east and north along said divide to the Blackfoot-Flathead Divide at Wolverine Peak, then south, east and north along said divide to the Continental Divide at Triple Divide Mountain, then northerly along said divide to the Glacier National Park boundary at Marias Pass, the point of beginning.

DISTRICT 2

Those portions of Deer Lodge, Granite, Lewis and Clark, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, and Ravalli Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Lookout Pass on the Montana-Idaho border, then in an easterly direction along the Mineral County-Sanders County line to U.S. Forest Service Trail 404 near Combpest Peak, then east on said trail to Miller Creek Loop Forest Service Road, then east along said road to its junction with U.S. Forest Service Trail 415, then south and east on said trail to its junction with U.S. Forest Service Trail 1714, then south on said trail to the Clark Fork River at the Cascade Campground, then south along Forest Service Trail 242 to the Ninemile-Seigel Creek Divide, then easterly along said divide to the Flathead Indian Reservation, then southeasterly and northeasterly along said reservation boundary to the Swan-Clearwater Divide, then easterly and northerly along said divide to the Blackfoot-Flathead Divide, then southerly, easterly and northerly along said divide to the Continental Divide at Triple Divide Mountain, then southeasterly along said divide, to Interstate 15, then in a southerly direction along said Interstate to its junction with Interstate 90 at Butte, then west and north along said interstate to its junction with State Route 1, northwesterly along said highway to State Route 274 (Mill Creek Road), then southerly along said route to the Continental Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to the Montana-Idaho border, then westerly and northerly along said border to Lookout Pass, the point of beginning.

DISTRICT 3

Those portions of Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Jefferson, Madison, Meagher, Park and Silver Bow Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Mt. Tiny on the Continental Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to the Montana-Idaho border, then southerly and westerly along said border to the Yellowstone National Park boundary, then northerly and easterly along said boundary to the Stillwater-Yellowstone River Divide, then northwesterly along said divide to Columbine Pass and the Boulder River-Yellowstone River divide, then westerly and northerly along said divide to Interstate 90, then easterly along said interstate to U.S. Highway 192, then northerly along said highway to the Yellowstone River, then westerly along the south bank of said river to the mouth of Duck Creek, then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the Shields-Yellowstone River divide (Crazy Mountain Divide), then northerly and westerly along said divide to the Shields-Musselshell River Divide, then westerly along said divide to the Smith-Shields River Divide and the head of the Middle Fork of Sixteen Mile Creek, then westerly down the south bank of said creek to Sixteen Mile Creek, then northeasterly along the south bank of said creek to US Highway 89, then northwesterly along said highway to its intersection with US Highway 12, then westerly along said highway to the Broadwater-Meagher county line, then northwesterly along said line and subsequently continuing northwesterly along the Meagher-Lewis and Clark county line to the Beaver Creek-Elk Creek divide, then westerly along said divide to the posted Beartooth WMA boundary fence near Humps Cabin, then southwesterly along the Willow Creek-Elkhorn Creek Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to Willow Mountain, then along the Meriwether Canyon-Willow Creek divide, then southwesterly down the Meriwether Canyon-Mann Gulch divide to the mouth of Meriwether Canyon on the east side of the Missouri River, then northerly up Holter Lake and the east shore of the Missouri River to Interstate 15, then southerly along said interstate to the junction with US Highway 287, then south on said highway to the bridge over Lyons Creek, then up said creek and the North Fork of Lyons Creek to the Continental Divide, then southeasterly along said divide to Interstate 15, then in a southerly direction along said interstate to its junction with Interstate 90 at Butte, then westerly and northerly along said interstate to its junction with State Route 1, then northwesterly along said highway to State Route 274 (Mill Creek Road), then southerly along said route to the Continental Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to Mt. Tiny, the point of beginning.

Upper Madison Beaver Management Area: Those portions of Gallatin and Madison counties that include all of the Madison River drainage upstream from the Earthquake Lake Dam described as follows: Beginning at the outlet of Earthquake Lake Dam on the Madison River, then northerly to U.S. Highway 287, then northeasterly to the intersection of Rock Creek, then up said creek to the Beaverhead-Gallatin National Forest boundary, then northerly on said boundary to the Madison River-Gallatin River divide, then easterly along said divide to the western boundary of Yellowstone National Park, then south along said boundary to the Montana-Idaho state line, then westerly and northerly along this boundary to the Madison River, then easterly along said river to the outlet of Earthquake Lake Dam, the point of beginning.

DISTRICT 4

Those portions of Hill, Glacier, Choteau, Toole, Liberty, Pondera, Teton, Cascade, Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, Meager, Park, Judith Basin, Fergus and Petroleum counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where the eastern boundary of Glacier National Park intersects the United States-Canada Boundary, then east along said boundary to the Liberty-Hill County line, then south on said line to the Marias River, then southerly along the east bank of said river to the Missouri River, then easterly along the south bank of said river to the Fort Peck Reservoir, then easterly and southerly along the south edge of said reservoir to the Musselshell River, then southerly along the west bank of said river to Highway 200, then west along along said route to Winnett, then southwesterly on the Winnett to Roundup Road (FAS 244) to its junction with US Highway 87, then north on said highway approximately 4 miles to Flat Willow Creek, then westerly up said creek to the South Fork of Flat Willow Creek, then westerly up said creek to the Red Hill Road, then south along said road to the Snowy Mountain Divide, then westerly along said divide to the head of Meadow Creek, then westerly down said creek to US Highway 191, then south on said highway to the Wheatland-Judith Basin county line, then west on said line to the junction with the South Fork of the Judith River-Hoover Springs-Deadman Creek Road, then south along the Spring Creek–Whitetail Cabin Road to US Highway 12, southeasterly along said route to its intersection with US Highway 89, then northwesterly along said highway to its intersection with US Highway 12, then southeasterly along said highway to the Broadwater-Meagher county line, then north along said line and

LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS

Meagher-Lewis and Clark county line to the Beaver Creek-Elk Creek divide, then westerly along said divide to the posted Beartooth WMA boundary fence near Hump Cabin, then southwesterly along the Willow Creek-Elkhorn Creek-Porcupine Creek divide, then southwesterly along said divide to Willow Mountain, then along the Meriwether Canyon-Willow Creek divide, then southwesterly down the Meriwether Canyon-Mann Gulch divide to the mouth of Meriwether Canyon on the east side of the Missouri River, then northerly up Holter Lake and the east shore of the Missouri River to Interstate 15, then southerly along said interstate to the junction with US Highway 287, then south on said highway to the bridge over Lyons Creek, then up said creek and the North Fork of Lyons Creek to the Continental Divide, then northerly along said divide to the Glacier National Park boundary, then easterly and northerly along said boundary to the United States-Canada boundary, the point of beginning.

DISTRICT 5

Those portions of Fergus, Golden Valley, Meagher, Musselshell, Petroleum, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland, Park, Yellowstone, Big Horn, Carbon and Treasure counties lying within the following described boundaries: Beginning at Wolverine Peak where the Stillwater-Yellowstone River divide meets with the Yellowstone National Park Boundary, then northwesterly along said divide to Columbine Pass and the Boulder River-Yellowstone River divide, then westerly and northerly along said divide to Interstate 90, then easterly along said interstate to U.S. Highway 191, then northerly along said highway to the Yellowstone River, then westerly along the south bank of said river to the mouth of Duck Creek, then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the West Fork of Duck Creek, then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the Shields-Yellowstone River divide (Crazy Mountain Divide), then northerly and westerly along said divide to the Shields-Musselshell River Divide, then westerly along said divide to the Smith-Shields River Divide and the head of the Middle Fork of Sixteen Mile Creek, then westerly down the south bank of said creek to Sixteen Mile Creek, then northwesterly along the south bank of said creek to US Highway 89, then north along said highway to its junction with Route 294, then northeasterly along said route to its intersection with US Highway 12, then northwesterly along said highway to its junction with the Spring Creek-Whitetail Cabin Road, then north along said route to the South Fork of the Judith River-Hoover Springs-Deadman Creek Road to the Meagher-Judith Basin county line, then easterly along said line and subsequently continuing easterly along the Wheatland -Judith Basin county line to its junction with US Highway 191, then northerly along said highway to its junction with Meadow Creek near Garniel, then northeasterly along said creek to the Snowy Mountain Divide, then easterly along said divide to its intersection with the Red Hill Road, then north along said road to South Fork Flatwillow Creek, then easterly along said creek to Flatwillow Creek, then easterly along said creek to US Highway 87, then southerly along said highway to Route 244, then northerly along said route to Winnett, then east along US Highway 200 to the Musselshell River, then south down the east bank of the Musselshell River to the Melstone-Custer Road bridge, then south along the Melstone-Custer Road to the north bank of the Yellowstone River, then east down the north bank of said river to its confluence with the Bighorn River, then south up the east bank of the Bighorn River to Manning Diversion Dam, then southerly along the Bighorn-Tullock Creek Divide to the Little Bighorn Tullock Creek Divide, then southerly along said divide to the Little Bighorn-Rosebud Creek Divide, then southerly along said divide to the Little Bighorn-Tongue River Divide, then southerly along said divide to the Montana-Wyoming state line, then westerly along said line to the Yellowstone National Park Boundary, then northerly and westerly along said boundary to the Stiillwater- Yellowstone River divide at Wolverine Peak, the point of beginning.

DISTRICT 6

Those portions of Liberty, Hill, Chouteau, Blaine, Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Richland, Roosevelt, Garfield and McCone Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where State Route 233 joins the Canadian Line (near the port of Willow Creek), then west along said border to the Hill-Liberty county line, then south along said line to the Marias River, then southerly along said river to the Missouri River, then east and southeast along said river to Fort Peck Reservoir, then east and south along said reservoir to Big Dry Creek, then south along said creek to State Route 200, then east and northeast along said route to the North Dakota border, then north along said border to the Canadian Border, then west along said border to State Route 233, the point of beginning.

DISTRICT 7

Those portions of Bighorn, Carter, Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Musselshell, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Treasure, Yellowstone, Wibaux Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the confluence of the Bighorn and Yellowstone Rivers, then west along the Yellowstone River to the Custer-Melstone Road, then north along said road to Melstone, then east along U.S. Highway 12 to the Musselshell River bridge, then north down the east bank of the Musselshell River to the Missouri River, then east and north down said river to Fort Peck Powerhouse, then south along the east shore of the Fort Peck Reservoir to Big Dry Creek, then south up said creek to Little Dry Creek, then east along State Route 200 to the Montana-North Dakota state line, then south to the Montana-Wyoming state line, then west along said state line to the Little Bighorn-Tongue River Divide, then northerly along said divide to the Little Bighor- Rosebud Creek Divide, then northerly along said divide to the Little Bighorn-Tullock Creek Divide, then northerly along said divide to the Manning Diversion Dam on the east bank of the Bighorn River, then along said river to the confluence of the Bighorn and Yellowstone Rivers, the point of beginning.

REGIONAL BOUNDARIES

STATE HEADQUARTERS
MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East 6th Avenue
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-2535

REGION 1
490 North Meridian Rd
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501

REGION 2
3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula, MT 59804
(406) 542-5500

REGION 3
1400 South 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 994-4042

HELENA Area Res Office (HARO)
930 Custer Ave W
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-4720

BUTTE Area Res Office (BARO)
1820 Meadowlark Ln
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 494-1953

REGION 4
4600 Giant Springs Rd
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 454-5840

LEWISTOWN Area Res Office (LARO)
2358 Airport Rd
Lewistown, MT 59457

REGION 5
2300 Lake Elmo Dr
Billings, MT 59105
(406) 247-2940

REGION 6
Route 1 - 4210
Glasgow, MT 59230
(406) 228-3700

HAVRE Area Res Office (HvARO)
2165 Hwy 2 East
Havre, MT 59501
(406) 265-6177

REGION 7
PO Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301
(406) 232-0900

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks